DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 413 378 UD 031 966

TITLE	Asian Pacific Americans in Newton. Community Profiles in Massachusetts.
INSTITUTION	Massachusetts Univ., Boston. Inst. for Asian American Studies.
SPONS AGENCY	Boston Foundation, MA.
PUB DATE	1996-00-00
NOTE	10p.
PUB TYPE	Numerical/Quantitative Data (110)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Asian Americans; *Demography; *Educational Attainment; Elementary Secondary Education; Employment Patterns; *Enrollment; Higher Education; Housing; Income; Limited English Speaking; *Pacific Americans; Tables (Data); Urban Areas; Urban Youth
IDENTIFIERS	*Massachusetts (Newton)

ABSTRACT

The Community Profiles Project uses data from the 1990 U.S. Census to describe some of the population characteristics of Asian Pacific Americans in selected Massachusetts cities and towns. The profiles include basic statistics relating to income, employment, education, and housing. This information can assist policy makers and practitioners in developing programs and policies affecting Asian Pacific Americans that are appropriate, sensitive, and effective. This profile focuses on Newton. The 3,848 Asian Pacific Americans recorded by the 1990 Census as living in Newton accounted for 5% of the city's residents, a number that doubled since 1980. Nearly 60% of the Asian Pacific Americans were Chinese. The English language proficiency was highest in the 5 to 17 age group and lowest in those 65 and over. The proportion of Asian Pacific American households in the lowest household income categories was less than that of all other groups and the total population, and the proportion of Asian Pacific Americans in the highest income groups was greater than that of all groups and the total population. Nevertheless, the per capita income of Asian Pacific Americans in Newton was less than that of Whites, Blacks, and Latinos. The unemployment rate for Asian Pacific Americans in Newton was lower than that of the total population, and labor force participation was higher. More than 40% of all Asian Pacific Americans in Newton were enrolled in school, and the educational attainments of Asian Pacific Americans 25 years and older were higher than those of any group and the total population. The owner occupancy rate for Asian Pacific Americans was higher than that for any group and the total population. These data reflect the relatively high standard of living of Asian Pacific Americans in Newton. (Contains nine figures and eight tables.) (SLD)

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Asian Pacific Americans in Newton.
Community Profiles in Massachusetts

Institute for Asian American Studies · UMass Boston

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COMMUNITY PROFILES IN MASSACHUSETTS

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS *in Newton*

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The Community Profiles Project utilizes data drawn from the 1990 U.S. Census to describe some of the population characteristics of Asian Pacific Americans in selected Massachusetts cities and towns. The profiles include basic statistics relating to income, employment, education, and housing. This information can assist policymakers and practitioners in developing programs and constructing policies affecting Asian Pacific Americans that are appropriate, sensitive, and effective.

The Institute for Asian American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston brings together resources and expertise from both the campus and community to conduct research on Asian Pacific American issues, to expand Asian American studies in the curriculum, and to support community development initiatives in Asian Pacific American communities in Massachusetts.

Project Staff: Project director: Paul Watanabe. Principal researchers: Carlton Sagara and Joanne Chow. Design and Production: Shauna Lo and Marilyn Wu.

Support provided by: The Boston Foundation.

(P9.2.96

I. Population Characteristics

Table 1. Population by Race*

White	76,768
Asian Pacific American	3,848
Black	1,678
Other	255
Native American	36
TOTAL	82,585

* Latinos may be of any race

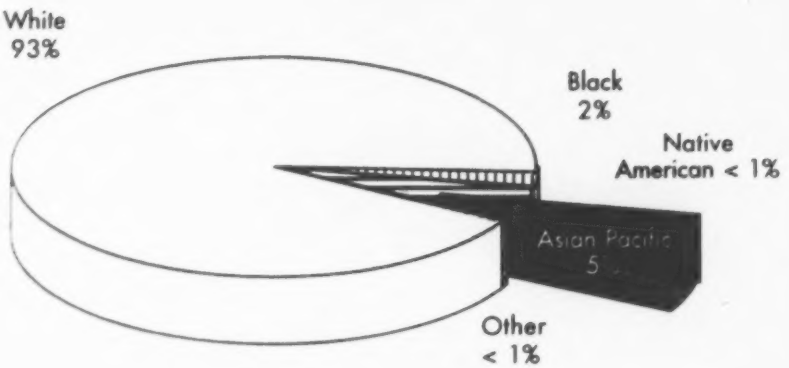


Figure 1

• The 3,848 Asian Pacific Americans recorded in the 1990 census as living in Newton (Table 1) accounted for 5% of the city's residents (Figure 1). The number of Asian Pacific Americans living in Newton doubled during the 1980s.

• Chinese accounted for nearly 60% of the Asian Pacific American population (Table 2). Asian Indians, Koreans, Japanese, Vietnamese, Filipinos, and Thais were also well represented in Newton.

- The Asian Pacific American population was fairly evenly divided between males and females overall and in most age categories (Figure 2).

- The English language proficiency of Asian Pacific Americans was highest in the 5 to 17 age group and lowest in those 65 and over (Figure 3).

Table 2. Ancestry of Asian Pacific Americans

Chinese	2,232	58.0%
Asian Indian	432	11.2%
Korean	288	7.5%
Japanese	285	7.4%
Vietnamese	161	4.2%
Other Asian	153	4.0%
Filipino	112	2.9%
Thai	87	2.3%
Hawaiian	51	1.3%
Cambodian	41	1.1%
Guamanian	6	0.2%
Hmong	0	0.0%
Laotian	0	0.0%
Samoan	0	0.0%
Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
TOTAL	3,848	100.0%

Figure 2. Asian Pacific Americans by Sex and Age

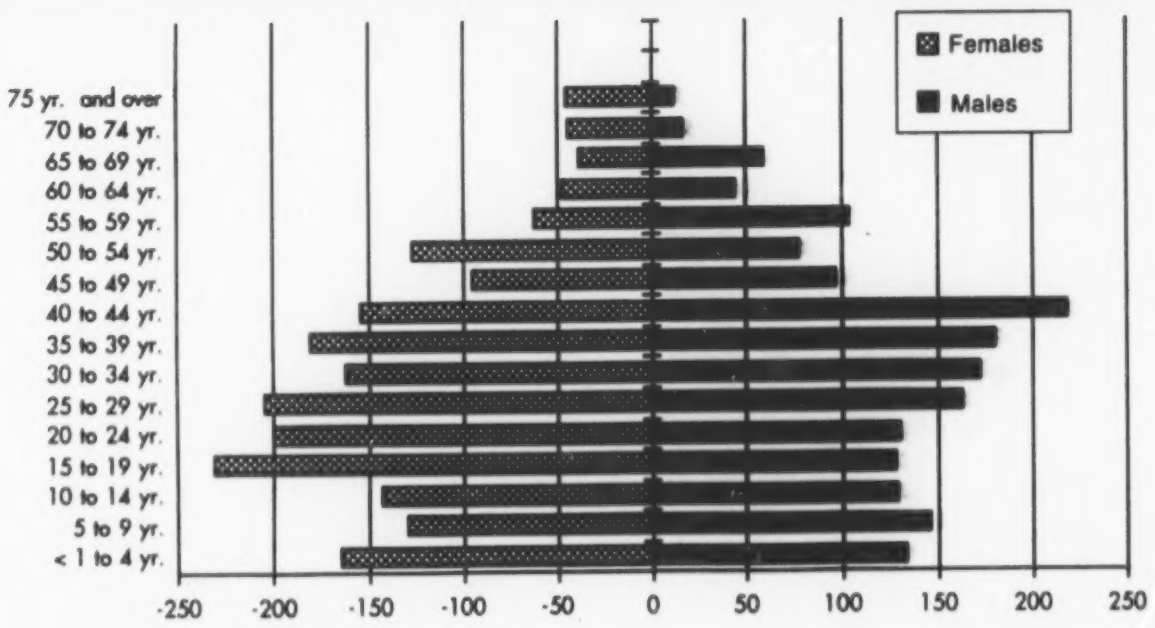
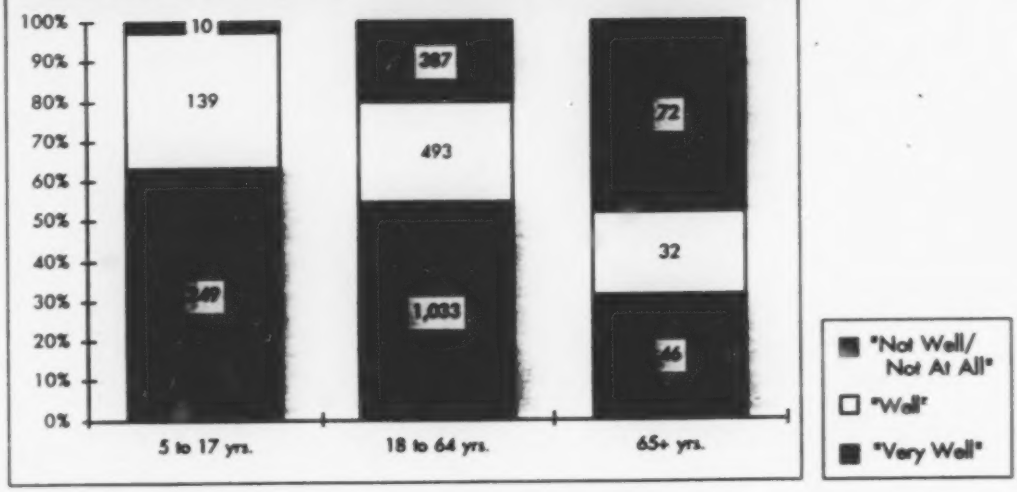


Figure 3. English Proficiency Among Asian Pacific Americans



II. Income

Table 3. Household Income by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
Less than $5,000	0	655	8	0	0	10	663
	0.0%	2.3%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	2.3%
$5,000 to $9,999	8	1,299	16	0	4	0	1,327
	0.9%	4.7%	3.0%	0.0%	7.3%	0.0%	4.5%
$10,000 to $14,999	21	905	19	0	8	36	953
	2.3%	3.2%	3.6%	0.0%	14.5%	9.1%	3.2%
$15,000 to $24,999	39	2,227	44	0	17	56	2,327
	4.3%	8.0%	8.3%	0.0%	30.9%	14.2%	7.9%
$25,000 to $34,999	112	2,230	28	0	0	35	2,370
	12.4%	8.0%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	8.9%	8.1%
$35,000 to $49,999	125	4,157	110	0	20	81	4,412
	13.8%	14.9%	20.8%	0.0%	36.4%	20.5%	15.0%
$50,000 to $74,999	232	5,959	146	0	0	67	6,337
	25.7%	21.4%	27.6%	0.0%	0.0%	17.0%	21.6%
$75,000 to $99,999	149	3,779	52	0	0	9	3,980
	16.5%	13.6%	9.8%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	13.6%
$100,000 or more	217	6,671	106	0	6	101	7,000
	24.0%	23.9%	20.0%	0.0%	10.9%	25.6%	23.8%
TOTAL	903	27,882	529	0	55	395	29,369
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Latinos may be of any race.

- The proportion of Asian Pacific Americans in the lowest household income categories (those making less than $24,999) was less than that of all other groups and the total population (Table 3 and Figure 4). The proportion of Asian Pacific Americans in the three highest categories (those making over $50,000) was greater than that of all groups and the total population.

- The per capita income of Asian Pacific Americans was less than that of whites, Blacks, and Latinos (Figure 5).

- Nearly 80% of Asian Pacific Americans in poverty were 18 to 64 years of age (Table 4). Over 10% of Asian Pacific Americans in poverty were under 5 years of age.

Figure 4. Household Income for Asian Pacific Americans and Total Population

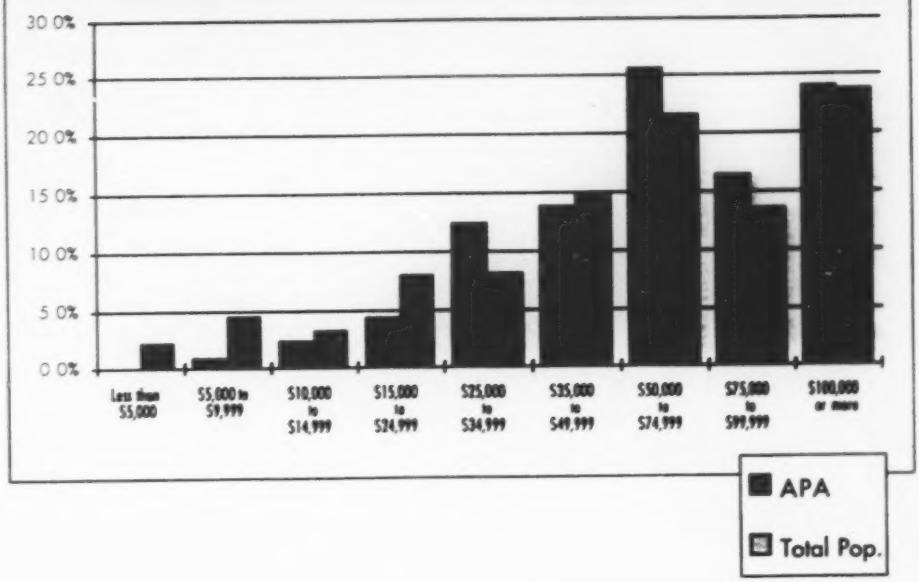


Figure 5. Per Capita Income by Race and Ethnicity

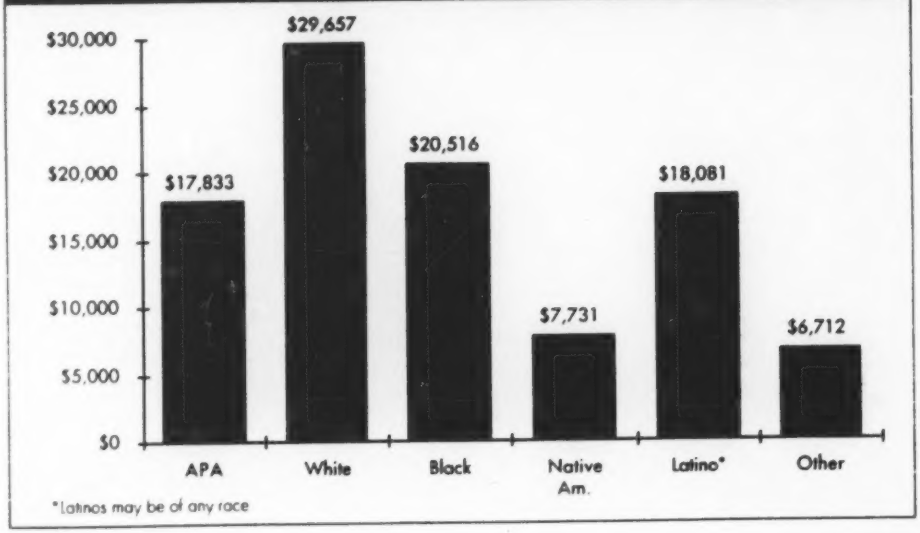


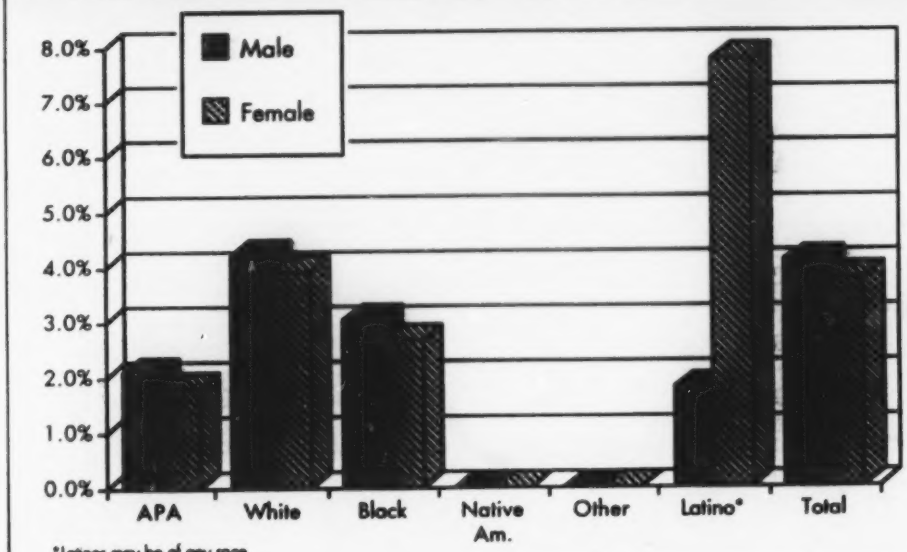
Table 4. Poverty Status by Age by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
Under 5 years	25	150	8	0	0	12	183
	11.8%	5.0%	8.2%	0.0%	0.0%	6.9%	5.5%
5 years	0	33	0	0	0	0	33
	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
6 to 11 years	13	133	8	0	24	46	178
	6.1%	4.5%	8.2%	0.0%	46.2%	26.6%	5.3%
12 to 17 years	6	150	0	0	11	11	167
	2.8%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	21.2%	6.4%	5.0%
18 to 64 years	168	1,751	67	2	17	104	2,005
	79.2%	58.9%	68.4%	100.0%	32.7%	60.1%	60.1%
65 to 74 years	0	336	0	0	0	0	336
	0.0%	11.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.1%
75 years and over	0	418	15	0	0	0	433
	0.0%	14.1%	15.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.0%
TOTAL	212	2,971	98	2	52	173	3,335
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Latinos may be of any race.

III. Employment

Figure 6. Unemployment Rate By Sex, Race and Ethnicity



*Latinos may be of any race.

• The unemployment rate of Asian Pacific Americans was less than that of the total population (Figure 6 and Table 5).

• The labor force participation rate of Asian Pacific American was higher than that of any group and the total population (Table 5).

Table 5. Labor Force Attachment for Persons 16 Years and Older by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
Males	1,396	28,713	727	8	64	542	30,908
In Armed Forces	0	54	3	0	0	0	57
Civilian: Employed	1,120	21,830	445	6	48	381	23,449
Civilian: Unemployed	24	962	14	0	0	7	1,000
Not in labor force	252	5,867	265	2	16	154	6,402
Male Unempl. Rate#	2.1%	4.2%	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	4.1%
Participation Rate@	81.9%	79.5%	63.4%	75.0%	75.0%	71.6%	79.2%
Females	1,571	35,711	704	28	103	715	38,117
In Armed Forces	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Civilian: Employed	973	21,465	474	10	68	415	22,990
Civilian: Unemployed	18	875	13	0	0	35	906
Not in labor force	580	13,371	217	18	35	265	14,221
Female Unempl. Rate#	1.8%	3.9%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	7.8%	3.8%
Participation Rate@	63.1%	62.6%	69.2%	35.7%	66.0%	62.9%	62.7%

Unempl. Rate = (Civilian Unempl.)/(Civilian Empl. + Civilian Unempl.)
@ Participation Rate=(Civilian Employed+Civilian Unempl.)/(Civilian Empl.+Civilian Unempl.+Not in Labor Force)

*Latinos may be of any race

IV. Education

Table 6. School Enrollment of Persons 3 Years and Older by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
In Preprimary School	71	1,936	16	0	0	33	2,023
	2.0%	2.6%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	2.5%
Elem. or High School	672	9,085	165	10	65	330	9,997
	18.5%	12.2%	10.2%	27.8%	25.5%	21.3%	12.5%
Enrolled in College	755	9,740	290	2	107	409	10,894
	20.8%	13.1%	18.0%	5.6%	42.0%	26.4%	13.6%
Not Enrolled in School	2,130	53,552	1,143	24	83	777	56,932
	58.7%	72.1%	70.8%	66.7%	32.5%	50.2%	71.3%
TOTAL	3,628	74,313	1,614	36	255	1,549	79,846
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Latinos may be of any race

Figure 7. Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older for Asian Pacific Americans and Total Population

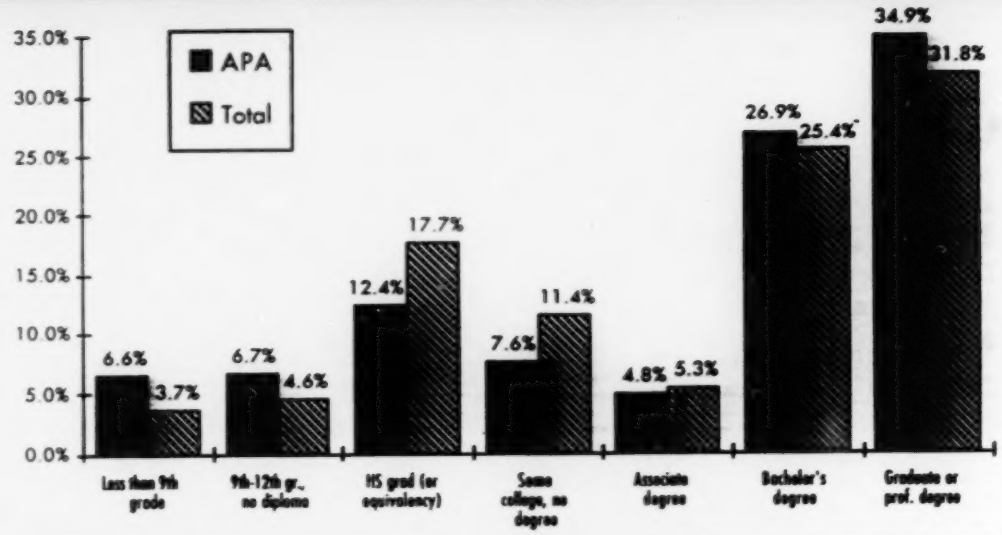


Table 7. Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*	TOTAL
Less than 9th grade	153	1,860	64	8	0	81	2,085
	6.6%	3.5%	5.7%	23.5%	0.0%	9.3%	3.7%
9th-12th gr., no diploma	155	2,387	42	10	0	76	2,594
	6.7%	4.5%	3.7%	29.4%	0.0%	8.7%	4.6%
HS grad (or equivalency)	287	9,471	175	0	8	60	9,941
	12.4%	18.0%	15.5%	0.0%	9.5%	6.9%	17.7%
Some college, no degree	176	5,956	255	0	26	149	6,413
	7.6%	11.3%	22.6%	0.0%	31.0%	17.0%	11.4%
Associate degree	112	2,766	67	4	19	46	2,968
	4.8%	5.3%	6.0%	11.8%	22.6%	5.3%	5.3%
Bachelor's degree	621	13,397	194	6	31	137	14,249
	26.9%	25.5%	17.2%	17.6%	36.9%	15.7%	25.4%
Graduate or prof. degree	808	16,713	329	6	0	325	17,856
	34.9%	31.8%	29.2%	17.6%	0.0%	37.2%	31.8%
TOTAL	2,312	52,550	1,126	34	84	874	56,106
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*Latinos may be of any race

- More than 40% of all Asian Pacific Americans were enrolled in school (Table 6).

- The educational attainments of Asian Pacific Americans 25 years old and over were the highest of any group and the total population (Table 7 and Figure 7).

V. Housing

- The owner-occupancy rate for Asian Pacific Americans was higher than that of any group and the total population (Figure 8).

- Of Asian Pacific Americans who paid rents over 90% paid more than $499 (Table 8 and Figure 9).

Figure 8. Rental and Owner Occupancy By Race and Ethnicity

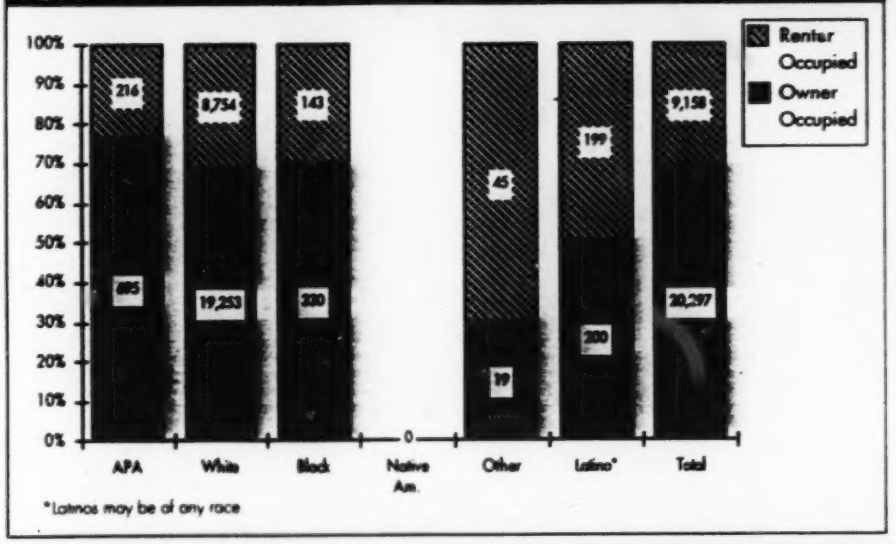
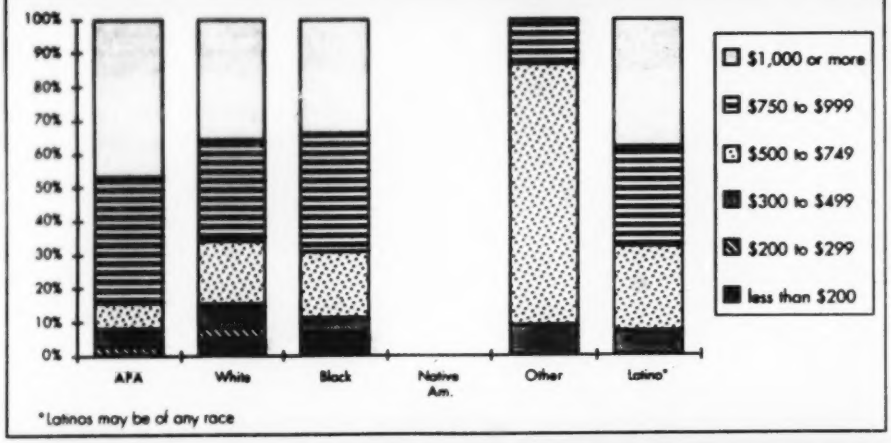


Figure 9. Gross Rent By Race and Ethnicity



LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

The 1990 U.S. Census data allows for the examination of the situation of Asian Pacific Americans and provides the most comprehensive available information on this group. The data, however, does have some limitations. Linguistic, cultural, and other barriers contributed to an undercounting of Asian Pacific Americans in the 1990 Census. Furthermore, by aggregating Asian Pacific Americans together, differences between nationalities were often muted. Errors in coding also limited the reliability of some data on Asian Pacific Americans.

Table 8. Gross Rent by Race and Ethnicity

	APA	White	Black	Nat. Am.	Other	Latino*
less than $200	0	430	10	0	0	0
$200 to $299	5	278	0	0	0	0
$300 to $499	10	580	6	0	4	13
$500 to $749	16	1,587	28	0	35	48
$750 to $999	74	2,519	50	0	6	57
$1,000 or more	93	3,039	49	0	0	73
No cash rent	18	299	0	0	0	0

*Latinos may be of any race